

(b) Amendment to the Specification

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 77, line 2 and ending on page 78, line 1 with the following replacement paragraph:

--Furthermore, a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprising a unit having a carboxyphenyl group that is a structure expressed by chemical formula (3) and a unit expressed by chemical formula (6) can be obtained by oxidizing with an oxidizing agent a carbon-carbon double bond portion or a methyl group portion in a vinylphenyl group or methylphenyl group that is a structure expressed by chemical formula (2)) or a terminal vinyl group expressed by chemical formula (5). Examples of known methods of obtaining carboxylic acid by oxidizing a carbon-carbon double bond or methyl group with an oxidizing agent may include a method of using permanganate (J. Chem. Soc., Perkin. Trans. 1, 806 (1973), a method of using dichromate (~~Org. Synth.~~, 4, 698 (1963)), a method of using periodate (~~J. Org. Chem.~~, 46, 19 (1981)), a method of using nitric acid (Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 59-190945), and a method of using ozone (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 81, 4273 (1959). Moreover, with regard to polyhydroxyalkanoate, the above Macromolecular chemistry, 4, 289-293 (2001) discloses a method of obtaining carboxylic acid by oxidizing a carbon-carbon double bond located at the side chain terminal of the polyhydroxyalkanoate with potassium permanganate as an oxidizing agent under an acidic condition. The same above method can be applied in the present invention.--